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A Musical Play

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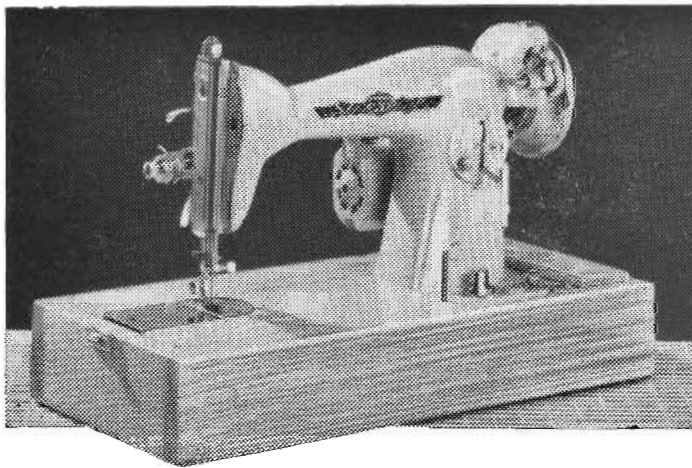


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Founded 1927



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Mary Mison. Ex-officio—Tom Anderson, Alan Nicol.

The Producer :

ALAN NICOL,

LL.C.M.(T.D.), A.L.C.M., A.D.B.

The Musical Director :

TOM ANDERSON

Dip.Mus.Ed.(R.S.A.M.), L.R.A.M.

Dancing: Mrs J. F. GRANT

Assistant Producer:

TOM McNEIL

Assistant Musical Director :

MARGARET MCKENZIE, L.T.C.L.

Accompanist: DAVID MACKAY

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HON. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

This year the Inverness Opera Company have pleasure in presenting "Showboat," which is a worthy successor to last year's popular production "White Horse Inn." "Showboat" is both tuneful and colourful and should have great popular appeal to the public. Let us hope it will be well supported by Inverness and the surrounding district to ensure the Company of a financial success.

To produce a show in The Empire Theatre is an expensive undertaking. The Company all work very hard. They design and create costumes, sets and scenery, which means months of hard work. To-night you see the finished production and the Company hope you enjoy it.

You can show your appreciation and support by becoming associate members. I appeal to those who are not members to join us and so ensure that Inverness Opera Company continues to delight us annually with a production.

Thanking you,

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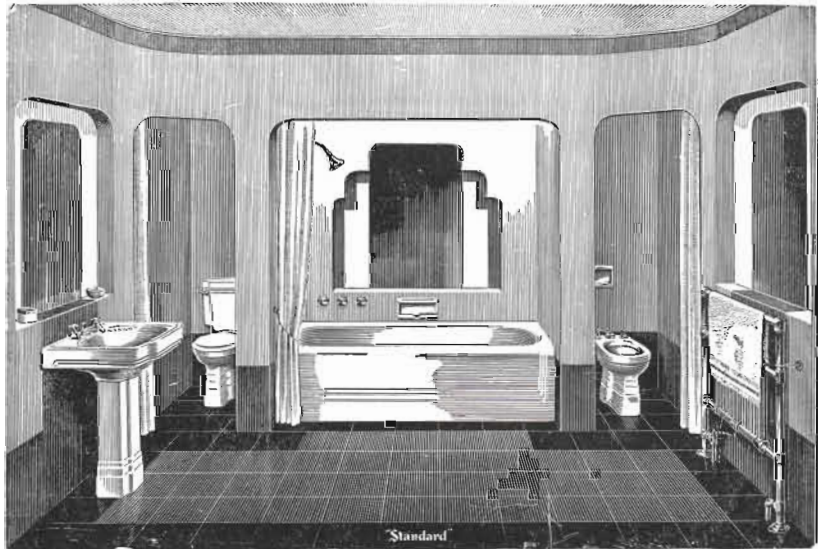
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THE STORY OF "SHOW BOAT"

In 1890, Capt. Andy Hawks is plying the Mississippi with his show boat, "Cotton Blossom." He provides the only theatrical entertainment for the small river-side towns. His shrewish wife, Parthy Ann, and their lovely daughter, Magnolia, are on board. Magnolia has met a charming ne'er do well, Gaylord Ravenal, and they have fallen in love.

Also in the company are the comedians, Ellie and Frank, she with ambitions towards tragedy—he with only one ambition, to marry Ellie. Then there are the show boat leads, Steve and Julie—man and wife devoted to each other. Pete, a wharf rat, is rebuffed in his advances to Julie and in jealous rage, after a thrashing from Steve, he charges them with miscegenation — the mingling of black and white blood, in those days a serious crime. The charge is true but Steve cuts his wife's hand and drinks her blood so that he may swear on oath that he has black blood in him.

In spite of this they have to leave the "Cotton Blossom" and thus, against her mother's wish, Magnolia becomes the leading lady and Ravenal is engaged to play opposite her. With Capt. Andy's aid they marry and wander off to Chicago where Gay makes a precarious living as a gambler. Yet they are happy for many years and proud of their daughter, Kim.

At length Ravenal deserts his wife and child and Magnolia, helped by Ellie and Frank, becomes a cabaret artiste, beginning by singing Julie's old coon songs. At her audition she is seen by Julie, now deserted by Steve, and pretty well destitute. Julie realises Magnolia's plight and purposely steps out of the show to make room for her.

On her debut at the Trocadero, Magnolia would have been a dismal failure had not Capt. Andy been present. The old man encourages her to give her best and she becomes a great star.

Years later, when she has retired from the stage, Kim has grown up and become a musical comedy star. Together they go to visit the old "Cotton Blossom," where Capt. Andy has arranged that Ravenal shall unexpectedly meet Magnolia. Their love is still alive and a happy reunion brings down the curtain.

* * * *

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee wish to express their appreciation and thanks to the Associate Members and the Advertisers, also to J. Menzies & Co. Ltd. and Sixty Minute Cleaners for their assistance, and all those who have helped in so many ways with the production.

Photographs by courtesy of James Gordon.

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The Cast

Steve	Tom Yates	Ladies of the Chorus
Pete	James Gordon	Anel Anderson
Queenie	Mary Mison	Marion Blair
Parthy Ann Hawks	Janet McInnes	Alison Buchan
Captain Andy	David Proudfoot	Margaret Donald
Ellie	Louise Munro	Rachel Elliott
Frank	James Pringle	Catherine Fraser
Rubber Face	Donald Matheson	Irene Gillespie
Julie	Maureen Pringle	Gillian Hancock
Gaylord Ravenal	Meston Reid	Margaret Herd
Vallon	Hector MacVinish	Ella Low
Magnolia	Dorothy MacTavish	Fiona MacDonald
Joe	Roderick Morrison	Rose MacKintosh
Faro Dealer	Andrew Newlands	Marjorie MacLennan
Gambler	Malcolm MacDougall	Bette MacPhee
Lounger	James Jarrott	Helen MacPhee
Backwoodsman	Duncan Chisholm	Rhoda Paterson
Jeb	Alistair Ferguson	Pat Pringle
1st Barker	Scot Don	June Scrimgeour
2nd Barker	Hector MacVinish	Betty Smith
3rd Barker	Duncan Chisholm	Jessie Smith
La Belle Fatima	Rose MacKintosh	Margaret Smith
Old Sport	Malcolm MacDougall	Barbara Spence
Landlady	Rachel Elliott	Ellenor Wilson
Ethel	Jessie Smith	Marilyn Wright
Jake	Sam Herd	Rita Yates
Max	Scot Don	
Charlie (doorman at the Trocadero)	Harold Mison	Gentlemen of the Chorus
Anncuncer at Trocadero	Andrew Newlands	Tony Biernat
Lottie	Margaret Herd	Duncan Chisholm
Kim (as young woman)	Dorothy MacTavish	Scot Don
		James Gordon
		Sam Herd
		James Jarrott
		Robert McCorkindale
		Malcolm MacDougall
		Hector MacVinish
		Donald Matheson
		Allan Miller
		Harold Mison
		William Moonie
		Andrew Newlands
		Jack Pitblado
		Archibald Solomon
		Tom Yates

ORCHESTRA

1st Violin : Mr J. Stuart, Mrs E. Findlay
 2nd Violin : Mr H. Goldsmith, Miss B. Busby
 Viola : Mr C. Allan, Mr G. Strachan
 'Cello : Mr I. MacDougall
 Double Bass : Mr F. Gale

Oboe : Mr J. Currie
 Clarinet : Miss D. Brass, Mr D. Gardner
 Trumpet : Mr A. Campbell
 Drums : Mr F. Miller
 Piano : Miss M. McKenzie, Mr D. MacKay

Synopsis of Scenes and Music

ACT ONE

- SCENE 1. THE LEVEE AT NATCHEZ ON THE MISSISSIPPI (1890)
" Cotton Blossom " Coloured Chorus
" Where's the Mate for me " Ravenal
" Make-Believe " Ravenal and Magnolia
" Ol' Man River " Joe and Men
- SCENE 2. KITCHEN PANTRY OF THE " COTTON BLOSSOM " (Half Hour Later)
" Can't help lovin' dat man " Julie and Coloured Chorus
- SCENE 3. OUTSIDE A WATERFRONT GAMBLING SALOON (At the Same Time)
" Life on the Wicked Stage " Ellie and Girls
" Till good luck comes my way " Ravenal and Men
- SCENE 4. AUDITORIUM AND STAGE OF THE " COTTON BLOSSOM " (One Hour Later)
- SCENE 5. BOX OFFICE ON FOREDECK OF THE " COTTON BLOSSOM " (Three Weeks Later)
" I might fall back on you " Ellie and Frank
" Hey ! Where yo' think yo' goin' ? " Queenie
- SCENE 6. AUDITORIUM AND STAGE OF THE " COTTON BLOSSOM "
During the Third Act of " The Parson's Bride " (That Evening)
- SCENE 7. THE TOP DECK OF THE " COTTON BLOSSOM " (Later that Night)
" You are Love " Ravenal and Magnolia
- SCENE 8. THE LEVEE (Next Morning)
Finale Chorus

ACT TWO

- SCENE 1. A MIDWAY PLAISANCE, CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR, 1893
" At the World's Fair " Chorus
Fatima's Dance Fatima
" Why do I love you " Ravenal and Magnolia
" Dahomey " Chorus
- SCENE 2. A ROOM ON ONTARIO STREET, 1904
- SCENE 3. REHEARSAL ROOM OF THE TROCADERO MUSIC HALL (December, 1904)
" Bill " Julie
" Can't help lovin' dat man " (Reprise) Magnolia
- SCENE 4. TROCADERO MUSIC HALL (New Year's Eve. 11.30, 1904)
" How'd you like to spoon with me " Frank and Ellie
" After the Ball " Magnolia
- SCENE 5. IN FRONT OF THE OFFICE OF " THE NATCHEZ EVENING DEMOCRAT," 1927
" Ol' Man River " (Reprise) Joe
- SCENE 6. TOP DECK OF THE NEW " COTTON BLOSSOM," 1927
" You are love " (Reprise) Ravenal
- SCENE 7. LEVEE AT NATCHEZ (The Next Night)
" Cotton Blossom " (Reprise)
" Dance away the night " Kim and Chorus

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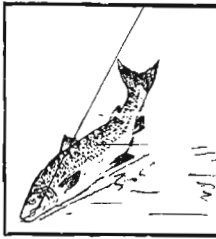
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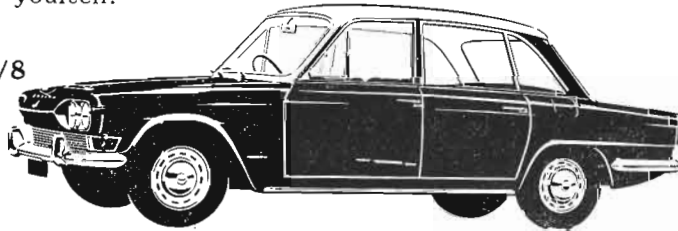


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Members also have the right to be present at, and vote at, Annual General Meetings of the Company, which are generally held each year in April. At these meetings the production policy for the ensuing year is usually shaped. The annual subscription for Associate Membership is £1.



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